

**Remarks**

This amendment is submitted to correct Claims 44 and 45.

Claim 44 has been amended to delete the language "or 43", thus limiting the claim so it depends on Claim 42. Please note that Claim 20 (which depends on Claim 43) covers "the step of isolating the protected oligomers in the mixture by reverse phase high pressure liquid chromatography." Claim 44 (43) also covered the identical step. As amended, Claim 44 only depends on Claim 42 and covers this additional "step of isolating the protected oligomers in the mixture by reverse phase high pressure liquid chromatography."

Claim 45 has been amended to delete the reference to "benzyl protecting groups" and to replace it with "protecting groups" since the acetyl protecting group as well as the benzyl protecting groups have to be removed. Please note that the thio-activated monomer of Claim 42 contains an acetyl protecting group at the 3-position - it is 3-O-acetyl-4-[(2-benzothiazolyl)thio]-5,7,3',4'-tetra-O-benzyl-epicatechin or -catechin.

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

No new matter is presented.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND FEES**

In the event that any fees are required, authorization is hereby given to charge Deposit Account No. 03-3839. Please address all correspondence to Intellectual Property Docket Administrator, Gibbons, Del Deo, Dolan, Griffinger & Vecchione, One Riverfront Plaza, Newark, NJ 07102-5497.

Should there be any questions or other matters that may be resolved by a telephone call,  
the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Gibbons, Del Deo, Dolan, Griffinger & Vecchione

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